

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 23-26 and 31-36 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 26 and 31 have been amended. Claims 10-22 and 27-30 remain withdrawn from consideration.

Objections to the Disclosure

The drawings were objected to because the element "turntable" was not identified. The objection is respectfully traversed since the element "turntable" is not cited in any of the claims, nor in the specification. The Applicant believes the Examiner misinterpreted the wording in claim 1 in that the support frame is mounted to the steering mechanism and turnable therewith. The word "turntable" is not present in the claim.

The drawings were further objected to because the elements "windshield support" and "support plate" were not identified therein. The objection is respectfully traversed. The specification clearly refers to "windshield supports 241" in paragraph 71 and the "windshield supports" are clearly shown in Figures 11 and 18. The same is true for the "support plates 242", which are also clearly described in paragraph 71 and shown in Figures 11 and 17.

Claim 31 was objected to because "structured" was a misspelling. Claim 31 has been appropriately amended to overcome the objection.

35 U.S.C. §112 First Paragraph Rejections

Claims 1-9 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 First Paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that the element "turntable" is not identified in the specification. As set forth above, claim 1 does not recite the element "turntable". Claim 1 recites that the support frame is mounted to the steering mechanism and is

turnable therewith. This is clearly supported in paragraph 82 and Figures 8 and 11. The addition of turnable to claim 1 does not constitute new matter to the claim.

The Examiner also states that the elements "windshield support" and "support plate", nor their functions, are identified in the specification. As discussed above, these elements are clearly shown in Figures 11, 17 and 18, and their functions clearly described in paragraph 71.

35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph Rejections

Claims 1-9 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 1 and 23, the same arguments as those made to the 35 U.S.C. §112 First Paragraph rejection above apply here.

With respect to claim 25, "adjustable bolt receiving hole" has antecedent basis in claim 24, from which claim 25 depends.

Claim 26 has been amended to recite "locking member", which has antecedent basis in claim 1.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 23, 24, 31 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sykora (U.S. Patent 3,819,226) in view of Vetter (U.S. Patent 4,087,110).

In the Applicant's response to the August 12, 2003 Office Action, claim 1 was amended to include the limitation found in claim 4 (which was then cancelled), which was that the support frame turns with the steering mechanism. Because in the August 12, 2003 Office Action claim 4 has been objected to, but, as stated by the Examiner, would have been allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim. It was believed that amended claim 1 was in condition for allowance.

In the present office action, the Examiner has given no reason why this should no longer be the case. The Examiner has again rejected claim 1 for the same

reasons claim 1 was rejected in the August 13, 2003 Office Action with the addition that the Examiner believes Sykora also discloses a "turntable".

The Applicant believes the Examiner has misinterpreted the term "turnable" for "turntable". This notwithstanding, it is unclear from the Office Action as why amended claim 1 is no longer patentable. Clarification is requested.

Claim 2, 3, 5, 6, 23-26 all depend from claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and the additional features recited therein.

Claim 31 has been amended to recite, amongst other things, a locking member having a shaft connected at a first end to one of the snowmobile and the windshield and having an enlarged portion at a second end; and a locking member receiving structure associated with the other of the snowmobile and the windshield, the locking member receiving structure arranged to releasably engage the locking member upon application of a predetermined force upon the windshield.

Vetter does not disclose a locking member associated with one of the snowmobile or the windshield and a locking member receiving structure associated with the other of the snowmobile or the windshield. The shaft of Vetter, which is a threaded member 160 to hold nut 164, is used to hold a spring clip 118 to the vehicle. The windshield of Vetter simply slips out of the spring clip upon a predetermined force applied to the windshield. Vetter does not teach a locking member which releasably engages a locking member receiving structure.

Examiner argues that the shaft 160 and nut 164, is the locking member, and the clip 118, is the locking member receiving structure. Applicant points out that the shaft 160 and nut 164 are releasable from one another because the nut is normally threaded onto the shaft, and it is only removable therefrom with the use of tools. Thus, the structure of Vetter cannot meet the limitations of claim 31 in that the two elements are not releasable from one another upon a predetermined force applied the windshield. Therefore, Sykora, in view of Vetter cannot render claim 31 obvious.

Claims 32-36 recite additional features of the invention and are believed to be allowable with respect to claim 31 and the additional features found therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 25, 26, 32, 33 and 35 define patentable subject matter. However, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is desirable the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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